

**§ 8.110 Incorporation by reference.**

(a) Certain material is incorporated by reference into this subchapter with the approval of the Director of the Federal Register under 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR Part 51. To enforce any edition other than that specified in paragraph (b) of this section, the Coast Guard must publish notice of the change in the FEDERAL REGISTER and the material must be available to the public. All material is available for inspection at the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol St., NW., Suite 700, Washington, DC and at the U.S. Coast Guard, Office of Design and Engineering Standards, 2100 Second St., SW., Washington, DC 20593-0001, and is available from the sources listed in paragraph (b).

(b) The material incorporated by reference in this subchapter and the sections affected are as follows:

*American Bureau of Shipping (ABS)*—Two World Trade Center, 106th Floor, New York, NY 10048.

*Rules for Building and Classing Steel Vessels, 1996—31.01-3(b), 71.15-5(b), 91.15-5(b)*

*U.S. Supplement to ABS Rules for Steel Vessels for Vessels on International Voyages, 21 October 1996—31.01-3(b), 71.15-5(b), 91.15-5(b)*

*American National Standards Institute (ANSI)*—11 West 42nd St., New York, NY 10036.

*ANSI/ASQC Q9001-1994, Quality Systems—Model for Quality Assurance in Design, Development, Production, Installation, and Servicing, 1994—8.230*

**§ 8.120 Reciprocity.**

(a) The Commandant may delegate authority to a classification society that has its headquarters in a country other than the United States only to the extent that the flag state administration of that country delegates authority and provides access to the American Bureau of Shipping to inspect, certify and provide related services to vessels flagged by that country. The Commandant will determine reciprocity on a “case-by-case” basis.

(b) In order to demonstrate that the conditions described in paragraph (a) of this section are satisfied, a classification society must provide to the Coast Guard an affidavit, from the government of the country that the classification society is headquartered in, listing the authorities delegated by the flag state administration of that country to the American Bureau of Shipping, and indicating any conditions related to the delegated authority.

(c) The Commandant will not consider an application for authorization to perform a delegated function submitted under this part until the conditions described in paragraph (a) of this section are satisfied. Where simultaneous authorization by a foreign government for ABS is involved, this requirement may be waived.

(d) The Commandant will not evaluate a classification society for recognition until the conditions described in paragraph (a) of this section are satisfied for at least one of the authorized delegations being sought. Where simultaneous recognition by a foreign government for ABS is involved, this requirement may be waived.

(e) The Commandant may make a delegation regarding load lines under 46 U.S.C. 5107 or measurement of vessels under 46 U.S.C. 14103 without regard to the conditions described in paragraph (a) of this section.

**§ 8.130 Agreement conditions.**

(a) Delegated functions performed by, and statutory certificates issued by, an authorized classification society will be accepted as functions performed by, or certificates issued by, the Coast Guard, provided that the classification society maintains compliance with all provisions of its agreement with the Commandant. Any agreement between the Commandant and a recognized classification society authorizing the performance of delegated functions will be written and will require the classification society to comply with each of the following:

(1) Issue any certificates related to a delegated function in the English language.

(2) Maintain a corporate office in the United States that has adequate resources and staff to support all delegated functions and to maintain required associated records.

(3) Maintain all records in the United States related to delegated functions conducted on behalf of the Coast Guard.

(4) Make available to appropriate Coast Guard representatives vessel status information and records, including outstanding vessel deficiencies or classification society recommendations, in the English language, on all vessels for which the classification society has performed any delegated function on behalf of the Coast Guard.

(5) Report to the Commandant (G-MOC) the names and official numbers of any vessels removed from class for which the classification society has performed any delegated function on behalf of the Coast Guard and include a description of the reason for the removal.

(6) Report to the Commandant (G-MOC) all port state detentions on all vessels for which the classification society has performed any delegated function on behalf of the Coast Guard when aware of such detention.

(7) Annually provide the Commandant (G-MOC) with its register of classed vessels.

(8) Ensure vessels meet all requirements for class of the accepting classification society prior to accepting vessels transferred from another classification society.

(9) Suspend class for vessels that are overdue for special renewal or annual survey.

(10) Attend any vessel for which the classification society has performed any delegated function on behalf of the Coast Guard at the request of the appropriate Coast Guard officials, without regard to the vessel's location—unless prohibited to do so under the laws of the United States, the laws of the jurisdiction in which the vessel is located, the classification society's home country domestic law, or where the classification society considers an unacceptable hazard to life and/or property exists.

(11) Honor appeal decisions made by the Commandant (G-MSE) or Com-

mandant (G-MOC) on issues related to delegated functions.

(12) Apply U.S. flag administration interpretations, when they exist, to international conventions for which the classification society has been delegated authority to certificate or perform other functions on behalf of the Coast Guard.

(13) Obtain approval from the Commandant (G-MOC) prior to granting exemptions from the requirements of international conventions, class rules, and the U.S. supplement to class rules.

(14) Make available to the Coast Guard all records, in the English language, related to equivalency determinations or approvals made in the course of delegated functions conducted on behalf of the Coast Guard.

(15) Report to the Coast Guard all information specified in the agreement at the specified frequency and to the specified Coast Guard office or official.

(16) Grant the Coast Guard access to all plans and documents, including reports on surveys, on the basis of which certificates are issued or endorsed by the classification society.

(17) Identify a liaison representative to the Coast Guard.

(18) Provide regulations, rules, instructions and report forms in the English language.

(19) Allow the Commandant (G-M) to participate in the development of class rules.

(20) Inform the Commandant (G-M) of all proposed changes to class rules.

(21) Provide the Commandant (G-M) the opportunity to comment on any proposed changes to class rules and to respond to the classification society's disposition of the comments made by the Coast Guard.

(22) Furnish information and required access to the Coast Guard to conduct oversight of the classification society's activities related to delegated functions conducted on behalf of the Coast Guard.

(23) Allow the Coast Guard to accompany them on internal and external quality audits and provide written results of such audits to appropriate Coast Guard representatives.

(24) Provide the Coast Guard access necessary to audit the authorized classification society to ensure that it continues to comply with the minimum standards for a recognized classification society.

(25) Use only exclusive surveyors of that classification society to accomplish all work done on behalf of, or under any delegation from, the Coast Guard. For tonnage-related measurement service only, however, classification societies may use part-time employees or independent contractors in place of exclusive surveyors.

(26) Allow its surveyors to participate in training with the Coast Guard regarding delegated functions.

(b) Amendments to an agreement between the Coast Guard and an authorized classification society will become effective only after consultation and written agreement between parties.

(c) Agreements may be terminated by one party only upon written notice to the other party. Termination will occur sixty days after written notice is given.

### Subpart B—Recognition of a Classification Society

#### § 8.200 Purpose.

This subpart establishes criteria and procedures for vessel classification societies to obtain recognition from the Coast Guard. This recognition is necessary in order for a classification society to become authorized to perform vessel inspection and certification functions delegated by the Coast Guard as described in this part.

#### § 8.210 Applicability.

This subpart applies to all vessel classification societies seeking recognition by the Coast Guard.

#### § 8.220 Recognition of a classification society.

(a) A classification society must be recognized by the Commandant before it may receive statutory authority delegated by the Coast Guard.

(b) In order to become recognized, a classification society must meet the requirements of § 8.230.

(c) A classification society found to meet the criteria for recognition will

be notified in writing by the Commandant.

(d) If the Coast Guard determines that a classification society does not meet the criteria for recognition, the Coast Guard will provide the reason for this determination.

(e) A classification society may re-apply for recognition upon correction of the deficiencies identified by the Coast Guard.

#### § 8.230 Minimum standards for a recognized classification society.

(a) In order to receive recognition by the Coast Guard a classification society must:

(1) Establish that it has functioned as an international classification society for at least 30 years with its own class rules;

(2) Establish that it has a history of appropriate corrective actions in addressing vessel casualties and cases of nonconformity with class rules;

(3) Establish that it has a history of appropriate changes to class rules based on their application and the overall performance of its classed fleet;

(4) Have a total classed tonnage of at least 10 million gross tons;

(5) Have a classed fleet of at least 1,500 ocean-going vessels over 100 gross tons;

(6) Have a total classed tonnage of ocean-going vessels over 100 gross tons totaling no less than 8 million gross tons;

(7) Publish and maintain class rules in the English language for the design, construction and certification of ships and their associated essential engineering systems;

(8) Maintain written survey procedures in the English language;

(9) Have adequate resources, including research, technical, and managerial staff, to ensure appropriate updating and maintaining of class rules and procedures;

(10) Have adequate resources and geographical coverage to carry out all plan review and vessel survey activities associated with delegated functions as well as classification society requirements;

(11) Employ a minimum of 150 exclusive surveyors;